



Welcome back to the Newsletter!

Before we say "good-bye" to 2011, we want to sincerely thank each of our clients and referrals for allowing us to serve you this past year. We wish everyone a healthy, safe and prosperous 2012!

Thanks for the continued feedback on this newsletter! We'll try to keep the information, limited as it is, useful, relevant, and interesting. Of course, as always, if there are subjects you would like to see addressed, please contact us and tell us what you would like to see.

January is National Radon Action Month!

Test: EPA and the U.S. Surgeon General recommend that all homes, both with and without basements, be tested for radon. Affordable Do-It-Yourself radon test kits are available at home improvement and hardware stores and online or a qualified radon tester can be hired.

- **Fix:** EPA recommends taking action to fix radon levels above 4 Picocuries per Liter (pCi/L). Addressing high radon levels often costs the same as other minor home repairs.
- **Save a Life:** By testing and fixing for elevated levels of radon in your home, you can help prevent lung cancer while creating a healthier home and community.

Radon is a natural, radioactive gas that comes from the breakdown of uranium in soil, rock and water. It can enter homes through cracks in the foundation or other openings such as holes or pipes. In addition to testing for radon, there now are safer and healthier radon-resistant construction techniques that home buyers can discuss with builders to prevent this health hazard.

Source: US EPA

Call today for more information or to schedule a consultation or test of your home.

Service Spotlight

This segment of our newsletter highlights a local service provider you may need now or in the future. This month, we introduce you to **Custom Tile and Wood Designs** in Lexington. Their specialties include tile, woodwork and interior painting. Give **Melissa May** a call to discuss your needs!



Custom Tile and Wood
Designs, Inc.
724 Kenova Trace
Lexington, KY 40511
Phone: (859) 797-5474

Your January "Do List"

This month...

- Take a look at your attic, after reading the article below, and decide if you could benefit from additional insulation there.
- Check your crawlspace for fallen sections of insulation. If there are fallen and/or damaged sections, have them installed back into place.

Tip of the Month – Are you insulated?

With energy costs on the rise, insulating our homes is more critical than ever. One of the most cost effective ways to make your home more comfortable and save energy dollars is to add insulation to your attic. In Central Kentucky the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) recommends R-30 to R-60 insulation value in attics. What does this mean? R-30 is 11 inches of fiberglass or 8 inches of blown, or loose fill, (cellulose) insulation. If your attic has less than this, you could more than likely benefit from additional insulation. Many older homes do not meet this standard. In fact, the USDOE estimates only 20% of homes built prior to 1980 are adequately insulated.

TIP: A quick test...If your attic insulation does not cover the ceiling joists, it's a good chance you may benefit from additional insulation.

Another opportunity can often be found in the main floor. Lack of insulation under a floor can make your home "feel" much colder, especially on hardwood, vinyl, and tile floors. The USDOE recommends R-25 to R-30 under flooring. Most problems, however, are from either complete lack of insulation installed under the floor (we will have reported this in our inspection report), or sections of installed fiberglass insulation that have fallen (also noted on inspection report). Either of these conditions should be addressed.

TIP: Take a flashlight into your crawlspace and check for fallen insulation. Replacing it now, before the cold weather REALLY hits us, will make your house feel warmer and save you money immediately. If you can't do this yourself, hire a contractor to perform the work.

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Send all inquires and suggestions to john@apex-hi.com. If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please send an email and we'll remove your name. Call us at (877) 366-6052.

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